A. THE FIVE GREAT HOHENZOLLERNS AND THEIR POLICY.

1. The mark of Brandenburg 1000-1415.
   A military outpost, between Rhine and Elbe, against the Slavs.
   The margrave drove the slavs back to Oder River.
   In 14th Cent. he vecame one of the Electors.

2. Origin of House of Hohenzollern.
   Before 1415 the Hoh. were a small house in the south of Germany near Switzer
   In 1415 Emperor Sigismund gave the mark of Brandengurg to ~~the~~ Hohensollerns. Frederick.
   Frederick energetic and intelligent, brot order out of chaos.

3. The Hohenzollerns held their own until in 1608 came to possess lands on the lower Rhine (inherit'. fr Duke of Cleves and in 1618 came to possess duchy of Prussia on the Baltic.
   "Prussia" = strip on eastern shore of Baltic.
   Conquered by German prince 13th.
   Divided by Poland into W. Prussia and E.P., the latter given bac to german prince as fief.
   A Hohenzollern built it up and finally willed it to the Elector of Brandenburg.
   Thus did ~~Prussia~~ the Hohenzollerns begin to grow.
   But the Thirty Years War devastated the lands and a weakling elector did litt le for it. Then came one who built i it up.

I.Frederick William the Great Elector. 1640-1688
1.In 8 yrs had so strengthened his interests as to secure at Peace of Westphalia additions of valuable territory.
A forceful but brutal and unscrupulous Elector, becomming one of the stronge
2.His Policies.
a/ The raising and maintaining the largest military machine possible to support.
b/ The crushing of all representative govt
c/ Treacherous diplomacy.
Wakeman, in his "Europe 1598-1715"
"Not one spark of generosity illuminated his policy, not one grain of idealism colored his ambition, no sentiment of moral right ever interfered with his judgment, no fear of future retribution arrested his action. Meanminded, false and unscrupulous, he was the first sovereign to displa the first principles of seventeenth century Machiavellianism, stripped of their cloak of Italian refinement, in all the hideous brutality of German coarseness."
d/.Territorial aggrandizement.
e/ Efficiency in civil affairs.
Agriculture, roads and bridges
20,000 Hugenots.

~~II.Frederick Wm.I. 1713-1740~~
II.The Elector Frederick. 1688-1713
A weakling.
Made King FrederickI. in Prussia.
"Prussia" became the name for all the Hohenzollern states.

III. Frederick Wm.I. 1713-1740.
1.Followed the policies of the Great Elector
2.Macaulay's estimate of him;"a tyrant without fear, faith or mercy".
3.Frederick's treatment of Saxony.

III.3.Frederick's treatment of Saxony.
During Seven Years War F. wanted to get into Bohemia. Saxony in way.
F. asked Augustus III. permission to pass thru. Granted.
F. takes full possession and forces Saxony to become ally.
Saxon envoy objected,"Good God, such a thing is without example in ancient or modern history!"
"Do you think so?" was F's sneering reply "It seems to me there is a precedent, but if not, perhaps you know I flatter myself on being original."
Is not this Belgium over again?

4.Achievements of Frederick Wm I.
a/ Standing army 80,000
b/ Made Prussia one of the great states of Europe.
c/ Created a body of professional civil servants who directed affairs of state under his immediate eye.
Highly centralized govt of Kaiser today is outcome of this policy.
d/ Acquired new territory from Sweeden around the mouth of the Oder River.
5.His treatment of his good-for-nothing son who afterwards became F.the Great.

IV. Frederick II. The Great. 1740-1786.
A chip of the old block.
1.Wrested Silesia from Maria Theresa.
2.Nearly ruined bu war bet.Eng. and France and by attack from Russia.
3.But during many yrs of peace he built up his kingdom in a remarkable manner, making Prussia the rival of Austria.

V. 1788-1861. Rivalry between German states.
Need of unification.

VI. William I. 1861-1888.
1. Bismark to the rescue.
United with Austria against Denmark.
Defeat of Austria 1866.
League of northern states.
Defeat of France 1870.
2. German Empire formed 1871.
William the Kaiser
Bismark the head of national cabinet and titled "Chancelor"
3. How Bismark met internal troubles.
Growth of socialism. The govt. began to give people socialistic care.

VII. William II. The present Kaiser.
1. Dismissed Bismark.
2. Did everything for his people but always adhering to the five policies of his predecessors.
3. Built the German navy. Strengthened the army.
4. By having the appointment of the controling numbers in the Bundesrath he has the absolute say of govt.

B. The Present Kaiser's Ambition. How does it affect us?

Mittle Europa.
Exploitation of Far East & Near East.
Either the world must crush the German System or become subject to "a nation that has been inhuman in war, will be merciless in rule."